

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 PCH-02 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 /134 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RES:HBLOCK

APPROVED BY INR/RES:KAKERST

INR/RES:PKCOOK

NR/OIL:BDENTON

EUR/SOV:MKOVNER

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R 172205Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S VERSION OF NEW LANDS PROGRAM

REF: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 5321

1. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT IS THAT BREZHNEV'S OWN VERSION OF QUOTE NEW LANDS UNQUOTE PROGRAM, I.E., INVESTMENT OF 35 BILLION RUBLES IN NON-BLACK SOIL ZONE OF RSFSR IN 1976-80, MOST LIKELY DOES NOT REPRESENT QUOTE DETENTE DIVIDEND UNQUOTE. RATHER, IT REPRESENTS FACT THAT USSR CANNOT AFFORD REPETITION OF 1971-72 CROP SHORTFALLS WITH DETENTE, MUCH LESS WITHOUT IT. AS BREZHNEV -- ECHOING SIMILAR STATEMENT BY KHRUSHCHEV IN 1962 -- PUT IT IN MARCH 30, 1971 SPEECH: QUOTE TIME -- WILL NOT WAIT ... WE TRIED OTHER PATHS TO SOLVING AGRICULTURE'S PROBLEMS BUT THEY DID NOT GIVE THE DESIRED RESULTS UNQUOTE.

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2. THIRTY-FIVE BILLION, MOREOVER, IS NOT SO LARGE WHEN PUT INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE. IT AMOUNTS TO ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF TOTAL AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PLANNED FOR 1971-75 AND NO DOUBT WILL BE MUCH SMALLER PORTION IN 1976-80. THOUGH COMPARABLE FIGURE UNAVAILABLE FOR CURRENT PLAN, RSFSR NON-BLACK SOIL ZONE IS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER AND INVESTMENT PRESUMABLY QUITE SUBSTANTIAL. IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT THE 35 BILLION WILL AMOUNT ONLY TO SOME 4 PERCENT OF TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN NEXT

FIVE YEAR PLAN. FINALLY, IN RECENT YEARS SOVIETS HAVE BEEN SPENDING MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OF THEIR FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION ON AGRICULTURE COMPARED TO 4-5 PER CENT IN US.

3. THE MOST ONE CAN SAY AT THIS TIME REGARDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN 35 BILLION PROGRAM AND DETENTE IS THAT MONEY SPENT ON AGRICULTURE CANNOT BE SPENT ON DEFENSE. WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL LIMIT SOVIET'S ABILITY TO FINANCE THEIR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED LENINGRAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, DETENTE, GOVERNMENT BUDGET, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), HIGHWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE078281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HBLOCK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740089-1106
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740435/aaaabfjr.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 5321
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV'S VERSION OF NEW LANDS PROGRAM
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005